

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/828,207

Applicant(s)

YOSHIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response of 8/12/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11, 12, 14-17 and 19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>1903</u> |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Norman Latker on 10/14/2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

in the claims: (see the listing of claims on page 4)

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a thermal pressure die having a first die means having an uneven die surface and a protection means having an elastic and a heat insulation property, the protection means being fixedly arranged on the uneven die surface to reduce impact and heat affection begin given to local areas of the material molded.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (703) 308-6295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (703) 308-0457. The official fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Joseph S. Zed Suk

J.S.D.

October 16, 2003



ROBERT DAVIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 4300-1700

10/18/03

Claims

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A thermal pressure die in combination with a trim cover assembly for automotive seat, said thermal pressure die being designed to heat and press said trim cover assembly and comprising:

a first die means including an uneven die surface;

a second die means including an uneven die surface region which corresponds to said uneven die surface of said first die means, second die means being normally positioned away from said first die means to allow said trim cover assembly to be placed between said first and second die means, and being also movable toward said first die means so as to cause the uneven die surface of the former to engage the uneven die surface region of the latter, thereby giving a pressure and heat to said trim cover assembly placed between the first and second die means; and

a protection means having an elastic and a heat insulation property, said protection means being fixedly arranged on either of said uneven die surface of said first die means and said uneven die surface of said second die means so as to reduce great impact and heat affection being given to local areas of said trim cover assembly during engagement of said first die means with said second die means which gives the pressure and heat to the trim cover assembly.

12. (Previously presented) The thermal pressure die as defined in claim 11, wherein said protection means comprises a protection element in a sheet form, which fixedly attached on said uneven die surface.

13. cancelled

14. (Previously presented) The thermal pressure die according to claim 12, wherein said protection element is formed from urethane foam material.

15. (Currently amended) The thermal pressure die according claim 14, wherein said urethane foam material is in the form of one unitary sheet having about 2 mm thickness.

16. (Previously presented) The thermal pressure die as defined in claim 11, wherein a projection is so formed on said uneven die surface as to surround a part of said uneven die surface, said projection being adapted to form a decorative groove in said trim cover assembly, and wherein said protection means is provided said part of said uneven die surface surrounded by said projection.

17. (Currently amended) A thermal pressure die in combination with a trim cover assembly for automotive seat, said thermal pressure die being designed to heat and press said trim cover assembly and comprising:

a first die means including an uneven die surface;

a second die means on which a said foam cushion member is to be placed, wherein said foam cushion member has an uneven surface corresponding in contour to said uneven die surface;

said first die means being normally positioned away from second die means to allow said trim cover assembly to be placed between said first and second die means, and being also movable toward the second die means in which said foam cushion member is placed, so as to bring the uneven die surface of the first die means to engagement with the uneven die surface said foam cushion member, thereby giving a pressure and heat to both said trim cover assembly and said foam cushion member; and

a protection means of elastic and heat insulation property, said protection means being fixedly arranged on the uneven die surface of said first die means so as to reduce great impact and heat affection being given to local areas of said trim cover assembly and said foam cushion member during engagement of said first die means with said second die means which gives the pressure and heat to both said trim cover assembly and said foam cushion member.

18. cancelled

19. (Currently amended) The thermal pressure die as defined in claim 17, wherein a projection is so formed on said uneven die surface of said first die means as to surround a part of said uneven die surface, said projection being adapted to form a decorative

groove in both of said trim cover assembly and said foam cushion member, and wherein said protection means is provided on said part of said uneven die surface surrounded by said projection.